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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a reproduction error in a magnetic disk drive having a reproducing function to reproduce data in the form of a plurality of data units, and an error checking function for the reproduced data, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a host system to said disk drive to reproduce data;

reproducing a portion of said data;

limiting a number of retries so that reproduced data can be transferred within a specified necessary time that is not less than a delay time required for at least one rotation of a magnetic disk from which the reproduced data is transferred;

generating error information indicating the presence or absence of an error for each data unit after said step of reproducing a portion of said data; and

outputting a portion of said reproduced data, remains of said data, and said error information.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A magnetic disk drive, comprising:

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a magnetic disk recorder for holding data in a plurality of data units;

a first connection interface connecting a host system with said disk drive;

a control unit controlling said disk drive to execute a request from said host system;

a second connection interface connecting said control unit with said magnetic disk recorder;

a first function of reproducing a plurality of data units according to said request;

a second function of limiting a number of retries so that reproduced data can be transferred within a specified necessary time that is not less than a delay time required for at least one rotation of a magnetic disk from which the reproduced data is transferred;

a third function of generating error information resulting from said first function, which indicates the presence or absence of an error for each data unit; and

a fourth function of outputting a portion of said reproduced data, remains of said data, and said error information in a serial manner.

5-7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a reproduction error in a magnetic disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said error information is added at the head of or at the end of said reproduced data and forwarded to said host system by way of the same connection interface in a serial manner.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for managing a reproduction error in a magnetic disk drive according to claim 1, wherein said error information is a bit map.

10. (Previously Presented) A magnetic disk drive according to claim 4, wherein said error information is added at the head of or at the end of said reproduced data and forwarded to said host system by way of said first connection interface in a serial manner.

11. (Previously Presented) A magnetic disk drive according to claim 4, wherein said error information is a bit map.

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12. (New) A method for managing a reproduction error in a magnetic disk drive according to claim 8, wherein said error information is a bit map.

13. (New) A magnetic disk drive according to claim 10, wherein said error information is a bit map.